

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 26 as follows:

Referring to Figure 1, there is shown, in perspective, an overhead view of a composite floor system of the invention. A primary framing member 11, which is shown here as a steel truss or girder, supports a plurality of secondary framing members 12 formed as open web steel joists which span perpendicularly between adjacent primary framing members (not shown). Each joist 12 is provided with an end shoe 13 on each end of the joist for attachment to the primary framing member 11. Figure 6 shows this in greater detail, as explained below. Preferably, the ~~primary~~ secondary framing member 12 used is a Hambro™ joist provided with an S-shaped top chord which forms a shear connector between the primary framing member ~~12~~ 11 and the concrete slab 14. A concrete slab 14 with reinforcing mesh ~~15~~ 9 is poured onto form-work (not shown for simplicity) and embeds the top chord 16 of the joists 12 and the top chord 17 of the primary framing members 11. The end shoes 13 of the joists 12 are fixed to the primary framing member 11 by means of a structural joint 15 sufficient to provide a shear connection between the concrete floor 14 and the primary framing members ~~12~~ 11. The shear shoe thus acts as a shear connector able to transfer the horizontal loading from the slab to the primary framing member 11 by the end shoe structurally fixed to the primary framing member 11. The structural joint 15 is preferably a weld joint between the shear shoe 13 and the primary framing member 11, the weld having a length sufficiently long so as to provide such structural joint. Although not simple, the determination of shear capacity between two components is of common knowledge for a person in the art. Hence, such person, having knowledge of the forces applied on the floor, the length and height of the primary and secondary framing members used for the floor system, knows how to calculate the shear necessary to develop the composite action between secondary and primary framing members and the right spacing between the connectors. As for example, in one preferred embodiment, an end shoe Hambro D500™ with a concrete slab of 2 ¾ inches reinforced by a wire mesh 6 x 6 6/6 fixed to the primary framing members by a weld of at least 2 inches

provided on each side of the shoe can provide a capacity of 30.2 Kips per shoe. The total capacity provided will be the number of shoes installed on the primary framing member by 30.2 Kips per shoe.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 11 as follows:

Figure 6 is a perspective view from above of the connection of the secondary open web joists 12 and the primary truss framing member 11. Welds ~~24~~ 15 are provided on both sides of shear shoes 13 to fix the shoes 13 to the top flanges of the truss 11.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 19 as follows:

In Figure 14, the same beam as shown in Figure 13 is shown in elevation, with the arrow 20 indicating the direction of the horizontal shear force. The combination of the primary framing member 12, the end shoe 13 and the welding 15 of the end shoe 13 to the primary framing member 11 creates a shear connector to resist the horizontal shear forces between the slab 14 and the primary framing member 11 or 11'.